DRAFT Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes
2/7/13 at 11:00 a.m

Participants: Lucinda Shih (CCWD), Geir Aasen (DFW), Edmund Yu and Wenli Yin (DWR), Jon Speegle (FWS), Elizabeth Leeper (KMTG on behalf of SLDMWA), RG Fernando (MWD), Barb Byrne (NMFS)

Hatchery Release Update

The Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery is planning to release about 182,662 brood year 2012 winter run Chinook salmon into the Sacramento River at Caldwell Park today (2/7). This release group is 100% adipose fin clipped and coded wire tagged and has an estimated average fork length of 85 mm.

The authorized incidental take at the Delta export facilities for this release group is set at 1% of the total production of hatchery winter run Chinook salmon entering the Delta, which comes out to be 965 fish. If the cumulative loss exceeds 0.5% for this release group, then an action response in NMFS RPA Action IV.2.3 for Old and Middle River (OMR) flow management will be required.

Delta Fish Monitoring

Preliminary FWS Trawl and Seine Catch Report from 1/27/13 to 2/2/13				
Species*	**Beach Seines**	**Mossdale Trawl**	**Sacramento to Trawl**	**Chipps Island Trawl**
Wild CHNF	1,236		444	
Wild CHNLF	1			
Wild CHNW	8			
Wild CHNS	32		1	
Hatchery CHN	5		1	3
Wild SH				
Hatchery SH	2		2	10 (including one acoustic tag SH)
DSM				12 (63 to 76 mm, no expression)
LFS				1 (122 mm, no expression)
SPLT	1			2
*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH = Steelhead, DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail; adipose fin clip indicates hatchery stock; non-adipose fin clip indicates wild origin. Data subject to revision.				

The Delta fish monitoring data from FWS will be posted online at http://www.fws.gov/stockton/jfmp/datamanagement.asp.

Salvage Monitoring

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Smelt and Other Species from 1/28/13 to 2/3/13				
	Central Valley Project (CVP)		**State Water Project (SWP)**	
Species	**Salvage**	**Total to Date**	**Salvage**	**Total to Date**
DSM*	28	121	14	100
LFS				4
SPLT		9		47
GST				
WST		4		6
Notes: -DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail, GST=Green sturgeon, WST=White sturgeon. -Salvage estimates are rounded to the nearest whole fish. -Total to date is the total since 10/1/12 (the start of water year 2013). -Data subject to revision.				

*As of 2/6, the preliminary cumulative adult delta smelt salvage is 232 fish, which is about 76% of the allowable adult delta smelt take at the Delta export facilities. Based on the preliminary data, the delta smelt concern level at the Delta export facilities has been exceeded (i.e., more than 75% of the allowable take limit has been reached or more than 228 delta smelt have been salvaged). As a reminder, these results are preliminary and subject to change.

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Salmonids from 1/28/13 to 2/3/13								
	CVP				SWP			
Species	Adipose Clipped (Hatchery)		Non-Adipose Clipped (Wild)		Adipose Clipped (Hatchery)		Non-Adipose Clipped (Wild)	
	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss
CHNF								
Total to Date	93	62	9	6	322	1,460	10	46
CHNLF	4	3						
Total to Date	165	118	28	18	616	2,780	57	259
CHNW	8	6			8	36		
Total to Date	43	34	24	17	91	412	64	288
CHNS								
Total to Date								
CHNU								
Total to Date			8	5				
SH	35	24	4	3	4	17	12	52
Total to Date	45	31	29	19	16	69	34	147

Notes:
-Chinook race based on length (Delta model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, CHNU= Unknown race (Chinook greater than the length-at-date criteria), SH = Steelhead.
-Salvage and loss estimates are rounded to the nearest whole fish.
-Documentation on how to calculate salvage and Chinook loss can be found at ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/Salmon%20Loss%20Estimation/.
-Steelhead loss: SWP steelhead loss = salvage × 4.33 and CVP steelhead loss = salvage × 0.68.
-Total to date is the total since 10/1/12 (the start of water year 2013).
-Data subject to revision.

Salvage information is posted on the salvage FTP site (ftp://ftp.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/). If you cannot access the FTP site, you can also go to http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/apps/salvage/Default.aspx and click on "Salvage FTP Site."

Smelt Monitoring

Last week, DFW only reported the catch results from the south and central Delta criteria stations for Smelt Larva Survey #3 since processing was not yet complete. As of today (2/7), all of the 35 stations that DFW sampled between 1/28 and 1/29 have now been processed. DFW did not detect any adult or larvae delta smelt. In addition, DFW collected a total of 2,248 longfin smelt larvae that ranged in size from 5 to 10 mm.

As mentioned last week, longfin smelt larvae were collected at 9 of the 12 south and central Delta criteria stations for Smelt Larva Survey #3. This result initiated OMR flow advice from DFW and the Smelt Working Group for longfin smelt since the distribution criteria from the SWP longfin smelt incidental take permit were met.

Smelt Larva Survey #4 will be in the field on 2/11 and 2/12. For more information about the Smelt Larva Survey, please visit the DFW website: http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SLS.

As a reminder, Spring Kodiak Trawl #2 is in the field this week (2/4 to 2/7) and preliminary results should be available for DAT to review next week. For more information about the Spring Kodiak Trawl, please

visit the DFW website: http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SKT.

Smelt Working Group

The Smelt Working Group met on 2/4 and provided advice to FWS for delta smelt and DFW on longfin smelt.

Delta Smelt: For delta smelt, the Smelt Working Group recommended that the 14-day average OMR flow should be no more negative than -2,500 cfs and the 5-day average flow should be no more negative than -3,125 cfs until the delta smelt concern level is met. When the concern level is reached, the Smelt Working Group recommended that OMR flow should be no more negative than -1,250 cfs.

However, FWS did not adopt the Smelt Working Group's recommendation to change OMR flow to -1,250 cfs when the delta smelt concern level is reached for the 2/5 determination. Instead, a conference will be held among FWS, DFW, DWR, and Reclamation to discuss what to do next once the delta smelt concern level is reached. Until then, the 14-day average OMR flow will be maintained at no more negative than -2,500 cfs and the 5-day average OMR flow will be maintained at no more negative than -3,125 cfs.

After reviewing the FWS 2/5 determination, there was a question on whether FWS had held a conference with DFW, DWR, and Reclamation as described in the determination since the delta smelt concern level has been exceeded based on the preliminary salvage data. Edmund Yu (DWR) and Barb Byrne (NMFS) were not sure if such a conference has been convened, but mentioned that the Smelt Working Group were meeting at the time of the DAT conference call to discuss a new recommendation since the delta smelt concern level was reached and that the Delta Conditions Team had convened earlier in the morning on 2/7.

Follow Up: After the DAT conference call, Yu sent an e-mail to the DAT e-mail reflector and mentioned that Smelt Working Group's meeting notes from 2/7 are now available online and that the Smelt Working Group upheld the recommendation from 2/4. Therefore, the 14-day average OMR flow should be targeted at no more negative than -1,250 cfs and the 5-day average OMR flow should be within 25% of -1,250 cfs. Based on preliminary discussions at a WOMT conference call on 2/8, FWS will be adopting the 2/7 recommendation in the new determination, which has not been posted online yet. In addition, the conference mentioned in the FWS 2/5 determination will take place on 2/8 and is for upper management to discuss how to proceed if the incidental take for adult delta smelt is exceeded.

Longfin Smelt: For longfin smelt, the Smelt Working Group believed that an OMR flow of -5,000 cfs would be protective and that the OMR flow recommendation for delta smelt would be very protective for longfin smelt.

After reviewing the recommendation for longfin smelt, there was a question on whether there was any indication that a more restrictive OMR flow requirement will be needed for longfin smelt. Yu mentioned that the Smelt Working Group concluded that the risk of longfin smelt entrainment into the south Delta was very low based on the monitoring data that was available as of 2/4. The Smelt Working Group will have to wait for new salvage and survey data to see if the risk to longfin smelt increases.

The Smelt Working Group notes and FWS determinations are posted at http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/smelt_working_group.cfm.

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Working Group

DOSS met on Tuesday (2/5) and there was no advice to NMFS or WOMT. However, there was an update on the winter run Chinook salmon juvenile production estimate (JPE), which is the total number of winter run Chinook salmon entering the Delta during the 2012/2013 outmigration year. The final JPE is now available and there has been a minor change from the preliminary JPE that was being used by DOSS. The difference was based on a change in the pre-spawn mortality from the carcass survey used to determine the JPE. The change in pre-spawn mortality changed the JPE from 535,325 to 532,809 for wild winter run Chinook salmon. This subsequently changed the authorized incidental of wild winter run Chinook salmon at the Delta export facilities and the wild older juvenile Chinook loss density triggers used

to manage OMR flow in NMFS RPA Action IV.2.3. A summary of the changes can be found in the table below.

JPE Based Criteria	Calculation	Prelim Estimate	Final Estimate
Wild Winter Run Chinook Incidental Take	2% of the JPE	10,706 fish	10,656 fish
First Stage OMR Trigger (Wild Older Juvenile Chinook Loss Density)	2% of the JPE/2000	5.35 fish/TAF	5.33 fish/TAF
Second Stage OMR Trigger (Wild Older Juvenile Chinook Loss Density)	2% of the JPE/1000	10.71 fish/TAF	10.66 fish/TAF

As of 2/3, the cumulative loss of wild winter run Chinook at the Delta export facilities is 305 fish, which is about 2.9% of the allowable take.

After the discussion on the final JPE, NMFS was asked whether a joint stipulation, like that implemented in 2012, was being pursued that might lead to operations in lieu of NMFS RPA Action IV.2.1. Byrne reported that, to her knowledge, no such effort was underway. She did note that a group had been convened to develop a study (or augment existing studies) related to salmonid outmigration and survival in the south Delta for implementation in the spring of 2014.

DOSS notes are posted at http://www.swr.noaa.gov/ocap/doss.htm.

Operations

Preliminary Summary for 2/7/13			
SWP		**CVP**	
Clifton Court Inflow (cfs)	1,500	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	2,400
SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	476	CVP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	748
San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of Midnight	1,224	American – Nimbus Reservoir Releases (cfs)	2,250
Feather – Oroville Reservoir Releases (cfs)	1,750	Sacramento – Keswick Reservoir Releases (cfs)	4,500
DELTA OPERATIONS			
Outflow	~16,000	14-day Average OMR Flow as of 2/6/13 (cfs)	-1,977
X2 (km)	70	5-day Average OMR Flow as of 2/6/13 (cfs)	-2,534
E/I (%)	18.3 (14-day average)		

A summary of daily operations can also be viewed at http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/docs/delta/deltaops.pdf.

Next Conference Call: The next DAT conference call is scheduled on 2/14 at 11:00 a.m. An e-mail update will be sent out before the conference call if an agency representative cannot call in.